Disinvestment of HTL

2460. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 74 per cent of Government shares in Hindustan Teleprinters Ltd. were disinvested in October, 2001;

(b) whether prior to disinvestment the company was earning profits and paying dividents;

(c) whether within six months of disinvestment the company's networth became negative from positive networth of Rs. 50 crores in March, 2001;

(d) whether the company has been referred to BIFR and manpower reduced by half; and

(e) whether any enquiry has been made by Government to find out the reasons of sudden sickness and financial losses of otherwise a healthy PSU; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir, 74% of Government shares in M/s HTL were disinvested on 16.10.2001 in favour of M/s HFCL.

(b) The Company was earning profits and paying dividents prior to disinvestment except for the year 1996-97.

(c) As per the 41st Annual Report 2001-02 of M/s HTL the net worth of the Company as on 31st March, 2002 became minus Rs. 50.00 crore as compared to a positive net worth of Rs. 57.61 crore as on 31st March, 2001. However, the resolution to adopt the Annual Accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st March, 2002 was not supported by the Government but still the Annual Accounts were passed by majority votes.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Company has been referred to BIFR and registered as Case Nos. 261/2003, 411/2003 and 262/2004 on 2.7.2003, 22.12.2003 and 12.8.2004 respectively.

M/s HTL has informed that the total employee strength of the company was 1138 as on 16.10.2001 and 688 as on 31.3.2005.

(e) No, Sir. No enquiry has been made by the Government since M/s HTL is no more a Public Sector Undertaking and is controlled by a private company since 16.10.2001.

Modalities on open source support systems and E-Governance

2461. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some MNCs have recently approached Government to discuss and set the modalities regarding the open source support system and e-governance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how such initiatives would be beneficial to people of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) and (b) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), a society under the Department of Information Technology, has set up an Open Source Software Resource Centre (OSSRC) at Mumbai, jointly with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai and in partnership with IBM. OSSRC's goals are to develop, adopt and disseminate solutions, education and content that use open standards.

(c) Such initiatives would be beneficial in promoting development of Software solutions based on Open Source and Open Standards that are affordable, accessible, inter-operable and free from vendor lock-in.

Cyber frauds

2462. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of cyber fraud in the country that have come to the notice of Government during the last two years;

(b) the details thereof and the action taken by Government in the matter;